

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/6



The Royal Oak Tree



1. Long ago, on the edge of a great forest, there stood a mighty oak tree, the king of all the trees. Nearby was a castle, and the big oak tree watched sadly as the people from the castle cut down trees for firewood. The forest grew smaller and smaller.



2. One day a robber baron came to the castle. He had overrun all the country around, and now he and his men stormed the castle itself and captured it. The young prince fled for his life. Pursued by the robbers he ran into the forest, to the oak tree.



3. The old oak tree took pity on the prince and held out one of its leafy branches to him. The prince climbed up on to it with little time to spare, for no sooner was he hidden than the robber baron's men came along. They searched the forest, but they could not find the prince, for the tree was hiding him.



4. There the prince stayed for several days, quite safe, and at last the robbers gave up the search and went back to the castle. The prince was neither hungry nor thirsty, for the birds brought him food—nuts and berries—and the tree caught dew in the hollow of its branches. At last, it was safe for the prince to leave.



5. Now the prince set to work secretly to gather his men together again and train them until they were a good fighting force. At last the prince felt they were strong enough to drive out the robbers and restore peace to the land. He said goodbye to the tree.



6. The prince promised that when the land was at peace again he would preserve the forest as a place of rest and peace for all men. At last, the robbers were driven out, but woodcutters still chopped down the trees. Then a royal messenger appeared one day.



7. The messenger had brought an order from the young prince. No more trees were to be chopped down and new trees were to be planted to replace those already felled. When he was betrothed, the prince showed his loved one the tree that had sheltered him and they were married there, beneath its leafy branches.



8. So the mighty oak tree lived on. The young trees grew and soon the forest was as large and fine as it had been before. Instead of woodcutters chopping down trees, there were children playing beneath the branches, or having their picnics in the shade, while among the leaves the birds happily built their nests again.



Without grass our world would look very bare, and without it many animals and birds would not have one of the most nourishing foods they can eat. Grass is very important. It grows almost everywhere and there are all sorts of varieties. A few kinds are shown here.

All Sorts



Cock's Foot can be seen in flower from June right through the summer until autumn. As hay, it makes an excellent cattle food. It grows mainly in chalky soil, especially on the Downs.

Sheep's Fescue is found on dry, high downs and, as its name suggests, is eaten by sheep. It is a wonderful food for all kinds of animals and is also marvellous for lawns.

Meadow Foxtail is found almost everywhere throughout Great Britain. Its roots help to bind the soil together and provide channels for drainage. Valuable also as a food for cattle.

Rye Grass can grow to a height of anything up to three feet. Its high food value makes it one of our most valuable grasses, and is believed to be the earliest sown grass in Europe.





of Grasses



Common Meadow Grass can be seen in our lawns, parks and meadow lands. It is the greenest of all the grasses and is known to farmers as one of the sweet grasses.

Wall Barley is rich in food but is not often eaten by animals because the spines which make up this grass irritate their throats. It is found mainly in sandy soils near walls and roadsides.

Couch Grass is found in pastures, waysides and hedge banks. It has amazing strength and will grow again from the tiniest piece of root left in the soil. It contains much food value.

Annual Meadow Grass is often found growing in waste plots of land, cultivated fields, or even between pebbles on the beach. It is ideal for lawns and good pasture lands.



BRER RABBIT

How Brer Rabbit got the juicy grapes.

NOW, children, as you all know, Brer Rabbit was about as full of tricks as a raspberry is full of pips, and the other animals liked him just about as much as a mouthful of pips, for although they were bigger and stronger than Brer Rabbit, the cheeky little animal always seemed to get the better of them.

Well, one day, Brer Rabbit was out for a stroll in the sunshine—looking this way and that as he went, of course, just to make sure none of the other animals crept up and took him by surprise. He went lickety-clip along the road, until finally he reached the top of a hill. Now, the climb had made Brer Rabbit feel very hot and very tired, so he decided to sit down for a rest.

As he settled down in the shade of a tree, Brer Rabbit happened to look down the hill, and who should he see down there but Brer Fox.

Brer Rabbit scratched his head. "Well now, if that isn't Brer Fox," said Brer Rabbit to himself. "He's a mighty long way from home. And if he's come as far from home as this, he's come for a purpose, and if he's come for a purpose, I'm sure it's no good."

Brer Rabbit stared very hard at Brer Fox and soon made out that he was eating something, and it wasn't long before Brer Rabbit saw that that something was the most delicious juicy grapes he had ever set eyes on. What with being so hot and so tired, and having walked so far, Brer Rabbit's mouth began to water just at the thought of those juicy grapes. But he had played so many tricks on Brer Fox in the past, that he knew it was no use going and asking Brer Fox to share the grapes with him, for there wasn't a hope. Brer Rabbit, he just sat there feeling hungrier and hungrier and trying as hard as he could to think of a way of getting those grapes for himself.

Now, Brer Fox happened to pause for a moment to wipe his mouth, which was getting very sticky, on the back of his paw, and he just happened to look up and see Brer Rabbit sitting there. If there was one thing Brer Fox liked, it was tasty rabbit for dinner.

"If I could get Brer Rabbit down here, on the pretence of



sharing these grapes with him, then I might get a rabbit dinner as well as the grapes, and that would be mighty tasty, as well as doing everybody round here a good turn, by ridding them of that pesky rabbit," said Brer Fox to himself. So he opened his mouth and shouted, just as loud as he could, "Hi, there, Brer Rabbit, I've got the sweetest, juiciest grapes down here that you ever did taste. Come and share some with me."

But Brer Rabbit, he knew all about Brer Fox's craving for a tasty rabbit dinner and he wasn't going to be caught so easily.

"Well, that's very friendly of you, Brer Fox," he called back. "But I've walked a long way this morning and I think I'll just sit here and rest for a few minutes."

Brer Fox could see that it wasn't going to be easy to catch Brer Rabbit, but he didn't give up trying. He ate a few more grapes and then he shouted to Brer Rabbit, "If you're worried about coming down, just because I'm down here, don't think another thing about it, Brer Rabbit. Why, you've nothing to worry about at all. I wouldn't harm you, to be sure. Haven't you heard about the truce that's been called among the animals? All animals are to live together in peace and no animal is to try to trap another."

Now, of course, Brer Rabbit hadn't

heard about the truce, because it was something which Brer Fox had made up that very minute, to try to trap Brer Rabbit into going down and joining him.

"When did it start, Brer Fox?" asked Brer Rabbit.

"Why, this morning, Brer Rabbit," called Brer Fox. "So you see, you'll be quite safe."

"Thank you, Brer Fox," called Brer Rabbit. "But I think I'll just stay here for a bit if you don't mind. I've got a very interesting view from up here." And he sat up very straight and began to peer down the other side of the hill as if he could see something that interested him very much indeed.

Brer Fox pricked up his ears at this. He thought it must be a very interesting view if it stopped Brer Rabbit coming to share the grapes. "What can you see, Brer Rabbit?" he called. "Anything that would interest me?"

"Oh, no, Brer Fox. I don't think you'd bother your head about what I can see, in the slightest," replied Brer Rabbit. "It's only Mr. Man coming along with his dogs. Those dogs, now, they're sniffing and panting and running around just as if they'd picked up the most interesting scent in the world and can't wait to get after it, but it won't interest you, if you

say all animals have declared a truce."

Now, of course, Brer Rabbit couldn't see Mr. Man or any dogs at all. It was just a trick he was playing on Brer Fox, because he knew there was nothing those dogs liked better than chasing Brer Fox over hill and dale. Now, Brer Fox was mighty scared of Mr. Man and his dogs, and when he heard what Brer Rabbit said he took to his heels and fled.

"Come back, Brer Fox," called Brer Rabbit. "There's nothing to be frightened of. Mr. Man's dogs won't chase you. All the animals have declared a truce and they're going to live in peace."

But Brer Fox, he never even turned his head. He just ran and ran. Then Brer Rabbit lay on the ground and he laughed and laughed at the way he had tricked Brer Fox.

Then that cheeky rabbit picked himself up and off he went, lickety-clip, down the hill until he reached the grapes, and they were just as ripe and juicy as Brer Fox had said. What a fine time Brer Rabbit had, eating grapes until he was fit to burst. Then home he went to tell the little rabbits how he had tricked Brer Fox out of his grapes and his rabbit dinner.

More chuckles with Brer Rabbit in Once Upon A Time next week.



Fun With Numbers

As you look at the pictures of the naughty little runaway train, have fun by doing the counting sums.



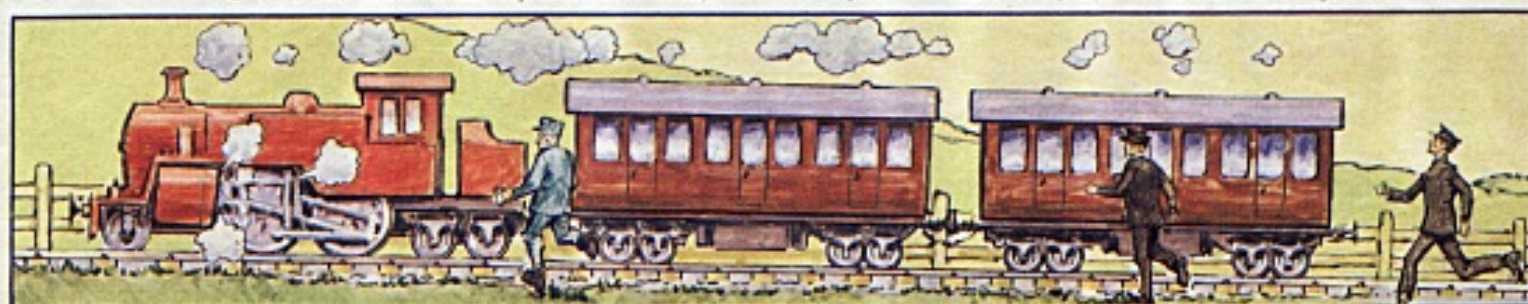
A. The porters, the driver and the guard dash after the runaway train. How many are chasing it?



B. The passengers rushed out to chase it, too. How many passengers can you count?



C. Farmer Brown's donkey and some sheep decided to join in. How many animals are there altogether?



D. The train started to puff when it went uphill and everyone got in. How many carriage wheels can you see?



E. So the naughty runaway train was caught. How many people did it take back to the station?

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 17 and try to answer some questions about it.

Gog and Magog

In the Guildhall, in London, are the statues of two great giants, Gog and Magog. Gog is dressed in rough clothes and carries an iron ball studded with spikes, fastened to a long pole. Magog is dressed like a Roman soldier and carries a halbert.

They are said to be two giants, who belonged to a race of people living in England many hundreds of years ago.

When the Ancient Britons first came, they found these fierce giants living in dark, damp caves.

The Britons settled down and built houses and towns. They settled on the banks of the River Thames and began to build the fine city of London. The giants were angry. Gog and the other giants wanted to drive the Britons out, but Magog wanted to ask the Britons to teach them how to build houses and weave cloth so that they would be able to live in comfort.

Gog and the other giants attacked the Britons, who had to flee into their new city for safety. The giants planned to attack London next morning, destroy it and kill all those inside. However, Magog went to the city and told the people what to do. Under cover of darkness they dug a trench all round the walls and filled it with sharp iron stakes. They then covered the trench with hurdles.

Next morning, they went out to fight the giants, pretended to be defeated and ran lightly over the hurdles into the city. The heavy giants lumbered after them, but fell through into the trench and were killed. Only Gog and Magog were left.

Magog wanted Gog to come and live with him, in the Guildhall, but Gog shouted that he would fight to the death.

With the halbert which the Britons had given him, Magog struck Gog down. The Britons took the wounded Gog into the Guildhall and nursed him until he was better. Gog, touched by their kindness, agreed to go and live with his brother in the Guildhall and guard it from danger.

There the two giants stand to this day, watching over the people of London.



This story has been a favourite with children from all parts of the world for many years.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

GOLDILOCKS was very tired and very hungry, and when she saw a cottage in the forest, she gave a glad cry.

Her knock on the door brought no answer so, after a little while, Goldilocks walked in.

Inside there was a cosy sitting room, and on a large table there stood three steaming bowls of porridge.

Also round the table were three chairs and Goldilocks sat in one. It was too high. The second one was too low, but the third chair was just right.

Goldilocks then tried the first bowl of porridge. It was too hot. The second bowl was too salty. But the third one was just right and she finished it all up.

After her meal, Goldilocks began to feel very sleepy, so she made her way to the bedroom, where she found three beds. The first one was too hard, the second bed was too lumpy, but the third and smallest bed was very cosy and just right.

While Goldilocks slept, the three bears, whose cottage it was, returned. At once they noticed that their chairs had been moved.

Baby Bear cried: "Someone has been sitting in my chair."

Then the bears saw that some of their porridge had been eaten, and when Baby Bear saw that his bowl was empty he began to cry.

Father Bear looked around the room and his eye fell upon the open bedroom door. He remembered that he had shut the door before going out. Beckoning to the others, he slipped into the bedroom.

When Father Bear saw his crumpled bed he roared, "Who has been sleeping in my bed?"

Mother Bear said the same thing when she saw her bed. But when Baby Bear looked at his bed he shouted, "Someone is sleeping in my bed!"

At this, Goldilocks woke up, and when she saw the three bears she gave a loud scream. The startled bears just stood there and watched as Goldilocks scrambled out of the window.

She ran and ran until she was safely home. And the three bears never saw Goldilocks again.





The Foam Fairies



1. Once there was a poor fisher-girl named Rosa, who lived with her step-mother and Della, her step-sister, in a small hut. Rosa did not mind being poor, but she was very unhappy, for her stepmother and step-sister were unkind to her. They made her do all the scrubbing and cleaning and never said a kind word to her.



2. When the day's work was finished, Rosa would go and sit by the sea-shore and think how wonderful it would be to have someone who really loved her. The foam fairies would gather around her and sigh sadly, for they knew how unhappy she was, but there was nothing they could do to help, however much they wished it.



3. One day, as Rosa and Della returned from gathering shell-fish, they saw a man lying on the beach. "It's a beggar, too lazy to move," said Della, haughtily, but Rosa ran to see if he needed help.



4. She saw that beneath his cloak he was richly dressed. "How pale he is," she thought. "I must get help or he will die. But what shall I do?" "Go to the castle," whispered the foam fairies.



5. Rosa took their advice and rushed all the way to the great castle which stood on a distant hill. There she panted out her story. "A young noble lies on the beach," she gasped. "And he is so pale that I fear he will die." "It is the Lord Roland," everyone cried. "He was washed overboard from his father's ship today."



6. They rushed away to the beach to fetch Lord Roland, and in the excitement, Rosa was forgotten. However, she did not forget him and the young lord was haunted by the memory of a sweet face gazing down at him. "Who was the girl who rescued me?" he asked his nobles. "Oh, just some fisher-girl," they replied.



7. Whenever he could, the young lord would wander down by the sea-shore, searching for the fisher-girl with the sweet face. "Who are you? Tell me your name, maiden," he would call. "It is Rosa, Rosa," sighed the foam fairies. The young lord heard them.



8. He sent messengers to search for a fisher-girl named Rosa. They searched far and wide and at last they came to the hut where Rosa lived. The young lord recognised her at once. Soon they were married and they often went to say "Thank you" to the foam fairies.



Beautiful Paintings

If you are ever lucky enough to visit Paris, the French capital, you will find this beautiful big painting hanging in the Louvre, together with many other lovely pictures. The artist was Jean Géricault, who was born in 1791. He was still only a young man when he died in

1824, but in that time he painted several wonderful pictures, which brought him great fame. The title of this week's Beautiful Picture is "An Officer of the Horse Guards", and it is worth cutting out and keeping.

South America

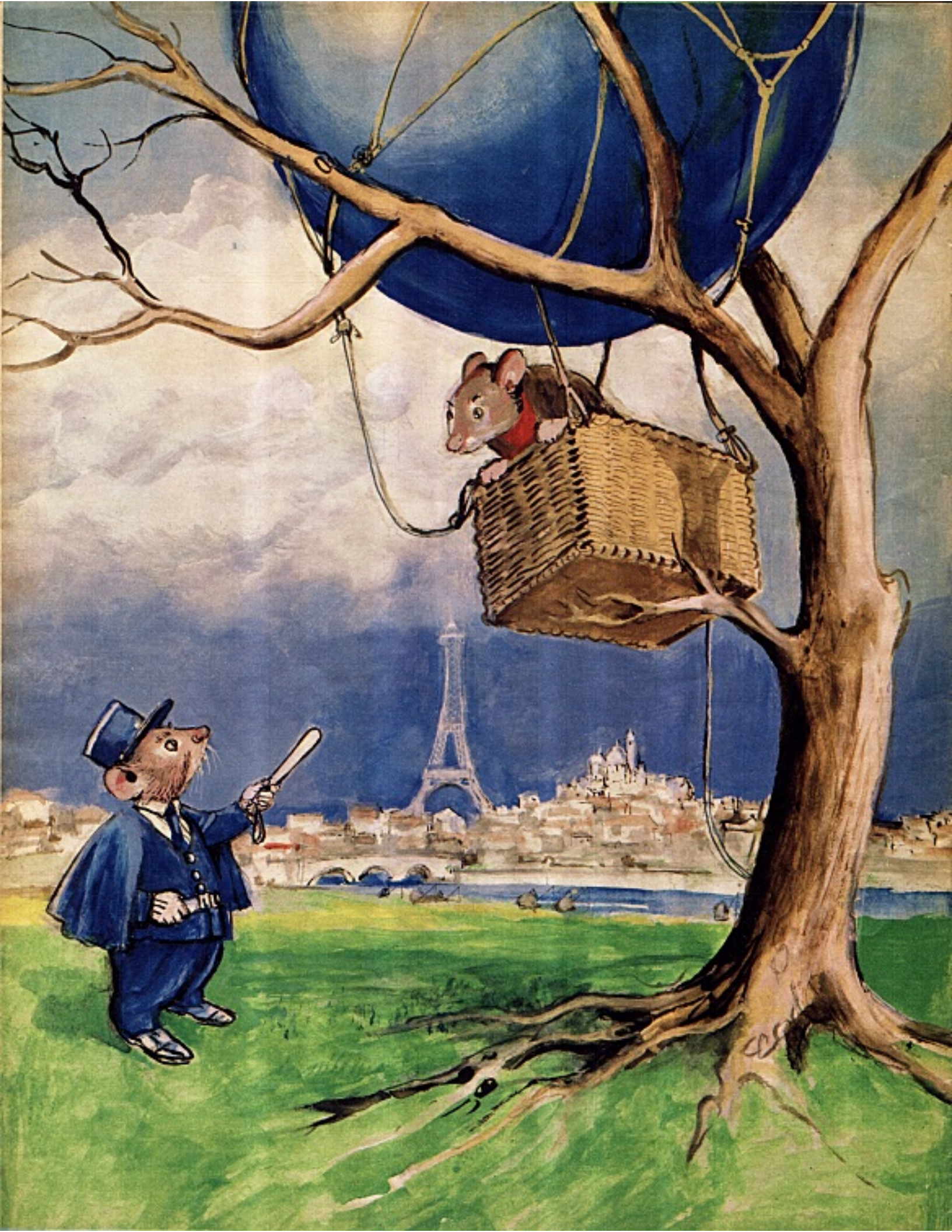


From this map you will see South America's position in the world.

South America is a very large continent, and in it we find vast jungles, dense forests, barren deserts, mountain ranges, and valuable pasture lands. It produces many essential products, such as fruit, beef, coffee, nuts, wheat and barley.

To get to know South America better, try following the route starting at the Amazon to Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Lima, Caracas, and back to the Amazon, without crossing any lines of the maze.

In the mountainous regions of Bolivia and Peru, llamas are used to carry packs from one village to another. The llama is a very sure-footed animal. By carefully filling in the spaces marked with a dot, you can draw one.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week, Nigel ends up in France.

WHEN Nigel went for a ride in a balloon at the village fete, he never expected the rope to break and the balloon to go sailing away over the tree-tops, taking him with it, but that is just what happened.

Looking down, Nigel saw fields and forests beneath him. They looked rather like a green and gold patchwork quilt, he thought. Then he came to a river which was winding along, with brightly-coloured sailing boats on it.

Nigel thought it must be getting a bit late, so he looked around the basket to see if he could find any way of bringing the balloon down. He couldn't, but tucked away in one corner he did find a kind of anchor. "Aha," thought Nigel. "I can throw this over the side of the basket and perhaps it will catch in the branches of a tall tree and stop the balloon."

He looked over the side of the basket, but, to his amazement, he found that his balloon was just floating over a beach. Beyond it stretched the sea.

Then a sudden puff of wind carried the balloon out to sea.

"Well, it's no good throwing the anchor out here," said Nigel. "I don't want the balloon to come down in the sea."

At last, Nigel saw land appear and soon his balloon was floating over the coast. On and on he went and then, to his relief, the balloon began to drop lower and lower. He threw his anchor over the side and it caught in the branches of a tree. Nigel was able to climb out of the basket and have a good stretch, for he felt very cramped.

Then he looked around to see where he had landed. He seemed to have got stuck in a tree in a very large park, and as he climbed down the tree, he saw mice running towards him. They were talking very fast, at the tops of their voices, and he couldn't understand a word they said.

The first one to reach Nigel wore a flat hat and a blue cloak and seemed to be some kind of policeman. He pointed to Nigel's balloon, shook Nigel's hand very hard and then kissed him on both cheeks.

"You are Eenglish?" cried the policeman mouse, in a very foreign voice. "Zis is France. You have come all ze way from Eengland in zis small balloon? You are most brave, my friend."

Nigel was very thankful that the French mice seemed to be able to speak English. He was taken to the Town Hall, where all the most important mice of the town gathered to meet him, and that night, the town mice laid on a big supper for Nigel, to celebrate his great journey and safe arrival. Then Nigel was given a room in a grand hotel and left to sleep until morning.

When he woke up and went outside, Nigel saw at once that the wind had changed. He quickly found his policeman friend. "The wind is blowing in the opposite direction now," he said. "If I get back into my balloon, it will blow me back to England again. I have enjoyed being here so much, but I must get back quickly. You see, I left my girl friend at the fete. She will be so furious, I'm sure she will never speak to me again."

As he spoke, Nigel saw that he was standing right outside a very high-class gown shop and he had a splendid idea. "I shall buy the most expensive dress that they have in the shop. Stephanie will never stay cross with me if I take her a lovely present like that."

So Nigel and the policeman went into the dress shop and chose the newest and most expensive gown in the shop.

A little later, Nigel and the balloon floated gently up into the air. "Goodbye," called Nigel, waving to all the mice who had gathered to see him off.

Back he went, over the sea, over the fields and the river, over the town, until he reached Winifred's village and there he let the anchor down and brought his balloon down in a tree right in the middle of the village green.

Winifred was pleased to see him. She had hardly slept a wink for worrying in case anything had happened to him. The reporter from the local newspaper heard that Nigel was back and he rushed over to take pictures of Nigel and the balloon.

Nigel insisted on holding Stephanie's present up when he was photographed in the balloon and he explained who it was for.

"Well, it's too late to go home now," said Winifred. "You can stay the night with my boy-friend, Bertie. I'm sure he'll be delighted to put you up."

So Nigel went gratefully home with Bertie. Of course, country people wake at dawn, so Nigel was up very early and he set off in his motor car for town.

Stephanie was still in her housecoat when she opened the morning paper and saw a picture of Nigel, standing in the basket of the balloon. And he was holding a big parcel.

"On his visit to France," she read, "Nigel, the brave balloonist, did not forget to buy a magnificent present for his friend, the beautiful and elegant Miss Stephanie Mouse."

"Ooh, a present from France," squeaked Stephanie joyfully, quite forgetting that she was cross with Nigel.

Then she peeped through her window and saw that everyone else in the road had their newspapers. They must all know about Nigel's present and be very envious. And when Nigel arrived in his car, some time later, making the loudest toot-toot he could, she was as pleased as a mouse with two tails.

More merry moments with the mice in **Once Upon A Time** next week.

Here are some questions about the story "Gog and Magog" on page 9. Try to answer them to see how good your memory is.

1. In what famous building are the statues of Gog and Magog to be found?
2. With what did Magog strike Gog down?
3. What job did they have to do at the Guildhall?

ROPE



Although ropes made from nylon yarn are being used more and more these days, the best quality rope still comes from the Abaca plant. It is called Manilla hemp, and is very strong. When ready, the Abaca plants are cut down and the thick stems are taken to a factory.



The stems contain long fibres and these are put through several machines to be spun into strands. The strands are used to make thicker ropes of different sizes. Manilla hemp ropes are well-known to seamen, for they are used in rigging and for tying up the ships alongside a dock.

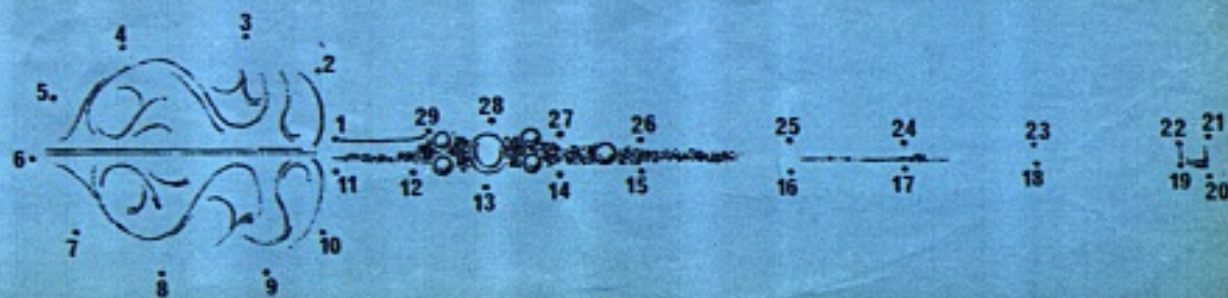


King Charles the First

Charles the First could never agree with his Parliament and Ministers and the whole nation grew to dislike him. The country was plunged into Civil War. The soldiers fighting on the king's side were called Cavaliers, and the soldiers fighting against the king were called Roundheads. Charles was finally executed and Oliver Cromwell was made Lord Protector of England.



The Ampulla (above) and the Golden Spoon are part of the Crown Jewels. The Ampulla holds the Holy Oil used for anointing a Sovereign during the Coronation ceremony, and the oil is poured into the Golden Anointing Spoon. To draw the Ampulla, join the dots from 1 to 61. Join the dots from 1 to 29 to draw the Golden Spoon.





The **WISE OLD OWL** Knows all the answers

The wise old owl is here to answer many interesting questions.



1. What are gliders used for?

"Glanders have not been in use for very long. They were first used during the Second World War for carrying men and equipment and were towed behind other aeroplanes. This is still their main use, because gliders can land in small fields and do not require special landing runways."



2. How big are the Pyramids?

"The largest of the Pyramids, which are the tombs of ancient Egyptian kings, is more than 400 feet high. It is known as the Great Pyramid of Cheops, and it took 300,000 men 10 years to build it."



3. How do windmills work?

"Man has used windmills to harness the power of the wind since the 10th century. The wind turns the large sails, which drive grindstones used to grind the wheat into flour, or for pumping water."



4. What is lightning?

"The flashes of lightning we see are really enormous electric sparks. They generate great heat when they reach the earth, but most flashes do not reach the earth. They go from one cloud to another."



5. How big is a Scorpion?

"It is between 2 and 4 inches long, and at the end of its tail it has a very poisonous sting. When about to strike, it arches its tail over its back and then strikes. Scorpions are most active at night."